

159¹] THE QUEEN, ON PROGRESS, VISITS
ELVETHAM

Isle, a hundred feet long and forty broad, with
three trees for
masts, the second the Fort, twenty feet square
and overgrown
with willows, the third the Snail Mount, rising to
four circles of
green privy hedges, twenty feet high, and forty
feet broad at
the bottom In the water were boats prepared
for musicians
and a pinnacle fully furnished
Everything being in readiness, the Lord
Hertford, calling his
retinue apart, in a few words put them in mind of
the quietness
and diligence they were to use so that their
services might bring
her Majesty content and thereby his honour and
their credit,
with the increase of his love and favour to them
This done,
the Earl with his train, amounting to the
number of three
hundred, most of them with chains of gold about
their necks,
and in their hats yellow and black feathers, rode
out to meet the
Queen, who entered the park between five and six
in the evening
Proceeding towards the house, a poet met them
and saluted them
with a Latin oration This poet was clad in
green to signify
the joy of his thoughts at her entrance, a laurel
wreath on his
head to express that Apollo was the patron of his
studies, an
olive branch in his hand to declare what continual
peace and
plenty he wished her Majesty, and booted to
betoken that he
was *vates cothurnatus*, and not a loose and
creeping poet His
speech being ended, the poet presented the scroll
to the Queen,
who graciously received it with her own hands,
and all moved on
toward the house, being preceded by six maidens
who strewed
flowers, singing this song

With fragrant flowers we strew the way,
And make this our chief holiday
For though this clime were blest of yore,
Yet it was never proud before
O beauteous Queen of second Troy,

Accept of our unfeigned joy
Now th' air is sweeter than sweet balm,
And satyrs dance about the palm ,
Now earth with verdure newly dight,
Gives perfect sign of her delight
O beauteous Queen of second Troy,
Accept of our unfeigned joy